



US Army Corps
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Great Lakes Habitat Initiative Briefing Purposes



- Provide HQUSACE an overview of the Habitat Initiative
- Provide HQUSACE a status update
- Update HQUSACE on coordination with partners
- Share lessons learned with other study managers

Great Lakes Habitat Initiative





Great Lakes Habitat Initiative

Goal:

Develop an implementation plan to protect, restore and manage aquatic habitat in the Great Lakes Basin based upon ecological and other relevant performance indicators

Objectives:

- Identify funding programs to implement projects
- “Roll Up” the readily available arrays of site-specific projects that have been proposed
- Expand upon the project information sufficiently to make comparisons
- Develop a common understanding for prioritization
- Improve the availability of information for potential sponsors and proponents of individual habitat projects

Overview

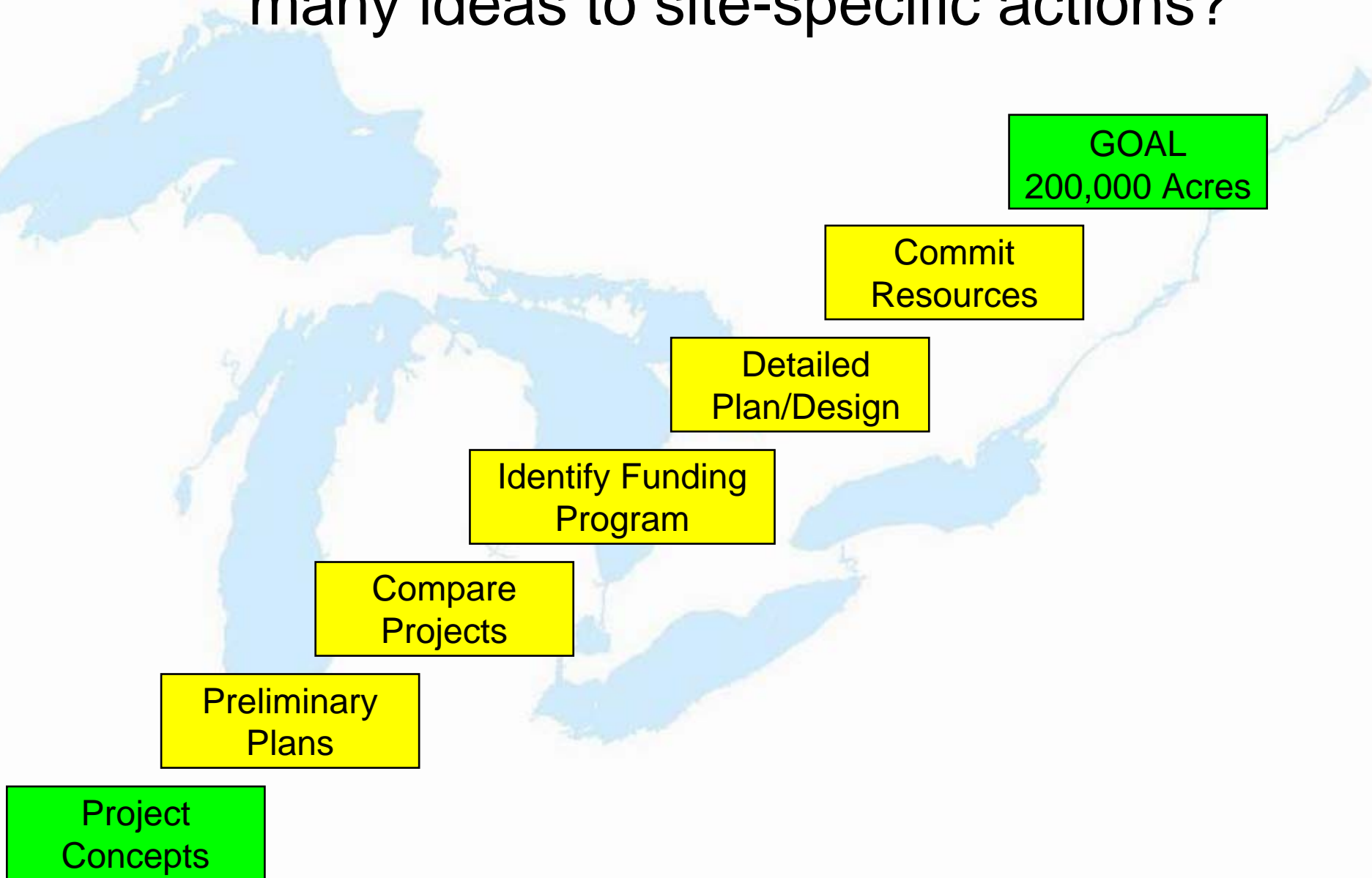
How? Identify site-specific projects that can be implemented under existing funding programs to protect and restore habitat in the Great Lakes Region. Four products:

1. Inventory of habitat funding programs
2. Inventory of potential habitat restoration projects
3. Development of performance metrics to evaluate proposed projects based on ecological outcomes and readiness
4. Application of performance metrics and preparation of the implementation plan

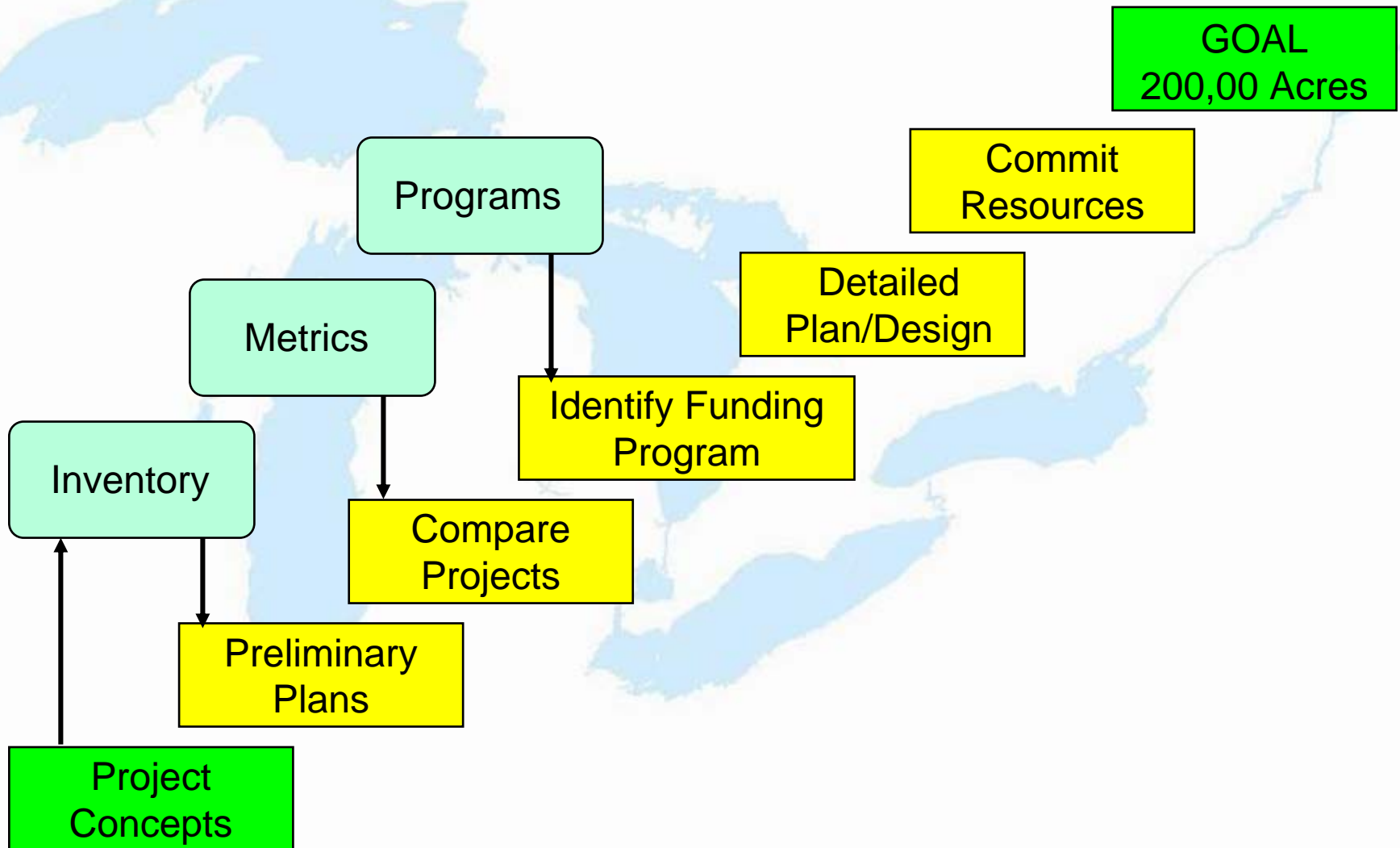
Example: How do we move from many ideas to site-specific actions?



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GLHI Products





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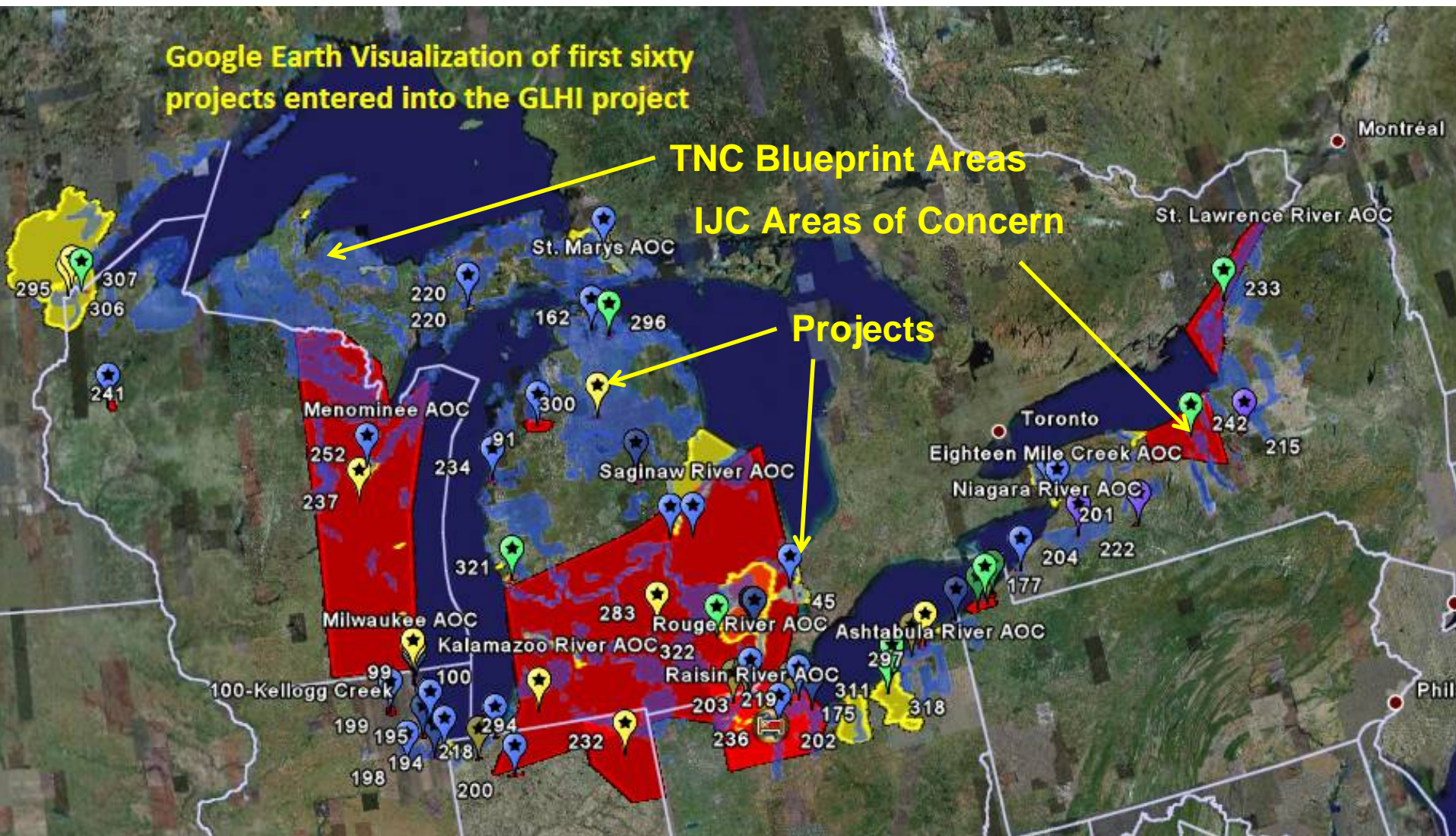
Problems:

- Strategic plans don't provide the details necessary to achieve the goals contained therein
- Need to shift from opportunity based implementation to performance based implementation
- Need to better quantify the benefits of restoration and conservation

Opportunities:

- Integrate restoration and conservation management efforts among tribal, state, local, and NGO interests
- Create the tools and process necessary for better regional integration and management
- Establish priorities in coordination with tribal, state, local, and NGO interests

GLHI Project Database





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Lessons Learned:

- To a large degree measurements of project attributes such as sustainability, connectivity, output units, etc. are not readily available or consistent
- Collaborative planning and management can be complicated by agency/organization missions and priorities
- Collaborative planning and management requires tools, institutions (e.g. steering committee), and leadership
- Visualization of the project database in Google Earth makes it easier to see the connection of all agency programs with the Great Lakes, and that visual stimulus excites participants and encourages them to manage collaboratively



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Issue:

- During the recent Steering Committee meeting concerns were expressed regarding prioritization habitat projects from the GLHI database in a collaborative manner
 - One concern was the difficulty in reconciling the diverse priorities of habitat funding programs
 - Another was the potentially divisive effects of having projects compete against one another in this forum
- Resolution of this issue is contingent upon identification of a compromise between no prioritization and the original study goal of developing a rigorous ranking of projects based on specific ecological and other relevant criteria



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Issue:

- Also at the last Steering Committee meeting, members proposed that the GLHI study subsume the GLRC Wetlands Initiative led by EPA, including the preparation of a single report
 - We support this idea and have prepared a white paper on what it would mean and how we would do it
 - To complete the integration of these two initiatives we must be careful that each retain their primary objectives



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Path Forward:

- Complete funding program and project databases
- Develop a SOW that outlines the requirements for maintenance, operation, and improvement of tools developed for the GLHI
- Fully synchronize and integrate the GLHI with the Wetlands Initiative
- Develop and resolve the use/application of project performance attributes
- Start draft report